

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Campus Compact for New Hampshire

Application ID: 13ND147754

Program Name: Wediko AmeriCorps Professional Corps Program

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant has identified the community problem as being a national problem of mental health among youth and a shortage of professionals to address this need. The applicant cite documentation from two federal agencies and an expert in the field regarding, for example, that half of all new cases of mental health affect youth under age 14; and that there is also a critical shortage nationally of trained individuals to meet this need.

(+) The applicant organization clearly documents the rationale for the selection of the targeted population; due to lack of sufficient mental health professionals in addressing the needs of vulnerable children.

(+) The applicant provides an exceptionally detailed description of the AmeriCorps member activities, roles and responsibilities. They provide specific examples and descriptions of the placement sites, the job titles and responsibilities of proposed Members and details of the target service population of special needs youth participants.

(+) The applicant provides a specific breakdown of the number of Members and slot types needed for their proposed activities, and further breakdowns by site including explanations of how the different slot types align with their program design and activities. For example, full-time Members are assigned to year-round activities and quarter-time slots are focused on the proposed summer programs.

(+) The applicant organization provides detailed descriptions of the AmeriCorps member activities, roles and responsibilities.

(+) The applicant organization clearly documents the need for the AmeriCorps members at each of the three proposed sites.

(+) Through a description of research-based evidence in support of their strength-based approach, the applicant describes how the interventions in which AmeriCorps members and volunteers will be engaged in are either evidence-based or evidence-informed.

- (+) The applicant provides several examples of how they will measure impact of AmeriCorps participation on the target population of special needs individuals. Among these is a longitudinal study conducted by an outside evaluator for assessing impact on the AmeriCorps Professional Corps Members as well as the program impact on the children served.
- (+) The applicant organization clearly identifies and indicates the use of a strength based model to be used in the proposed project.
- (+) The applicant organization clearly documents how they will conduct Performance Measures (attendance logs, activity logs, teacher pre/post surveys of student behavior, and Member exit paperwork).
- (-) The applicant does not provide persuasive evidence or any documentation illustrating the severity or magnitude of mental health, professional staff availability or other related problems within the target communities. And while the applicant provides a general discussion on the need for a national solution to meet unmet mental health needs of youth, particularly for those living in low-income communities and among ethnic minorities, the extent and severity of this need in the target community is not addressed. As a result, it is not clear why the applicant selected this target geographic area to serve.
- (-)The applicant seeks to address the needs of students not sufficiently academically engaged, or located in schools requiring an improved behavioral climate, no documentation or statistical evidence is provided identifying such needs existing in the target communities of New Hampshire and Boston. In addition, the applicant does not provide compelling evidence of the target communities being economically disadvantaged.
- (-) The applicant organization does not provide detailed description of the severity of the need in the targeted communities (no statistics provided).
- (-) The applicant organization does not document economic disadvantages of the proposed targeted population (lack of unemployment, and poverty rate data not provided).
- (-) It is not clear from the evidence presented that the Professional AmeriCorps members serving in direct care professional positions, and alongside existing staff in duplicate titles, are not supplanting existing non-Corps jobs that would have been otherwise filled through normal employee recruitment.